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855 Central Indiana Workers Benefit from State Training Grants

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan today announced that the Indiana Department of Commerce has awarded seven central Indiana companies with training grants from its Skills Enhancement Fund.

“These companies are dedicated to improving their workforce through training and upgrades to equipment,” said Kernan, who leads the state’s economic development efforts as director of the Department of Commerce. “We’re thrilled to partner with companies such as these whose initiative will keep them competitive and improve their employees’ skills.”

- **Baker Hill Corp.**, Carmel, has been awarded \$18,250 in training grants to train 30 existing and 30 new employees as part of a \$2.5 million investment in building improvements and equipment upgrades. Baker Hill Corp. has been a leader in the field of banking process solutions for 20 years, targeting the complete life cycle of the business lending process. The company created the first customer relationship management solution designed specifically for business bankers. Baker Hill will use the grants to train employees in computer skills, performance management and certification.
- **Firestone Industrial Products Co.**, Noblesville, has been awarded \$92,000 to train 20 new and 345 incumbent employees following the company’s \$4 million capital investment to upgrade equipment. Firestone Industrial began in 1936 as a division of Firestone Americas Holding, Inc. and today it manufactures suspension systems for the truck and trailer industry worldwide. The company will use the grants to train employees in computer and maintenance skills, forklift operations, manufacturing processes and lean manufacturing.
- **Industrial Dielectrics Inc.**, Noblesville, has been awarded a \$38,500 grant to retrain 139 incumbent employees as part of a \$1.2 million investment in equipment upgrades. Founded in 1966, Industrial Dielectrics Inc. (IDI) is a privately owned company that specializes in the fabrication, manufacture and distribution of insulating materials and the formulation and distribution of custom molding compounds. The company also has facilities in Puerto Rico and California. IDI will use the grant to train employees in calibration and measurements, lean manufacturing and other skills.

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- **Kittle's Home Furnishings Center Inc.**, Fishers, has been awarded \$31,400 in grants to train 19 new and 97 existing employees following a company investment of \$569,100 in building and equipment upgrades. Beginning as a single store in Indianapolis in 1932, Kittle's now has 17 retail furniture stores throughout the Midwest. The company will use the Commerce grant to train employees in computer skills, picker operation, Spanish as a second language and total quality management.
- **Moore's Country Wood Crafting Inc.**, Arcadia, has been awarded \$10,600 to train 28 incumbent and 10 new employees as part of a \$330,000 capital investment in building improvements, equipment upgrades and land expansion. Moore's Country Wood Crafting has grown from a single-employee garage shop in 1981 to the largest manufacturer in Arcadia, producing wooden aquarium stands. The company will use the grants to train employees in transferable skills and on-the-job-training.
- **Parker Hannifin Corp.**, Indianapolis, has been awarded \$43,850 in grants to train 137 existing and four new employees following the company's \$3.5 million investment in building improvements and equipment upgrades. The company began as the Commercial Filter Corp. in 1936 and patented the first textile filter cartridge. Parker Hannifin acquired the company in 1987 and began the patent process for polypropylene melt blown filter cartridges. The company will use the grant to train employees in transferable skills, management and quality training.

The Skills Enhancement Fund aids Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects by helping to defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about these or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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